

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 05182 191042Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----077321 191047Z /14
O 191015Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2666
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5182

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IS, US
SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT PACKAGE

REF: STATE 99977

1. GUR'S REMARKS ON SPLITTING THE AIRCRAFT PACKAGE WERE MADE TO A PRESS CONFERENCE OF MILITARY CORRESPONDENTS ON APRIL 18. THERE IS FURTHER COMMENTARY ON HIS REMARKS IN TODAY'S ISRAELI PRESS (SEPTTEL).

2. MY INITIAL JUDGMENT IS THAT GUR WAS EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS WHICH ARE UNDOUBTEDLY SHARED BY OTHERS (BUT BY NO MEANS ALL) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THE SALE OF F-15S TO SAUDI ARABIA REMAINS THE CHIEF TARGET OF THE ISRAELI POLITICO-DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT. GUR'S GAMBLE IS THAT THE F-15 SALE TO THE SAUDIS COULD PROBABLY BE KILLED IF ISRAEL WERE TO INDICATE IT WISHED NO FURTHER DELIVERIES HERE OF F-15S FOR THE NEXT YEAR OR SO. THIS IS A VIEW WE HAVE PARTICULARLY IDENTIFIED WITH MOD DIRECTOR GENERAL ZUSSMAN. (AN ISRAELI DECISION TO FOREGO DELIVERIES HERE WOULD, OF COURSE, MEAN THAT ISRAEL WOULD LOSE ITS PLACE IN THE PRODUCTION LINE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WEIGHT GUR OR ZUSSMAN HAVE GIVEN TO THIS CRITICAL FACTOR).

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3. WHATEVER VIEWS ON THIS PROBLEM GUR AND ZUSSMAN MAY HAVE IN COMMON, I BELIEVE WEIZMAN REMAINS THE KEY FIGURE ON DECISIONS RELATED TO AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT. UNHAPPY AS HE IS OVER THE SALE OF F-15S TO THE SAUDIS, I HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT HE SHARES GUR'S VIEWS. I AM HOSTING A RECEPTION THIS EVENING FOR A LARGE NUMBER OF MOD AND IDF OFFICIALS

(INCLUDING WEIZMAN) AND WILL USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE
THIS QUESTION. WE WILL BE REPORTING FURTHER TOMORROW, BUT
I WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS INTERIM RESPONSE THIS MORNING.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, PRESS CONFERENCES, MILITARY SALES, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT PACKAGE
TAGS: MASS, SOPN, IS, US
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/983e01ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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